

The opinion in support of the decision being entered today was not written
for publication and is not binding precedent of the Board.

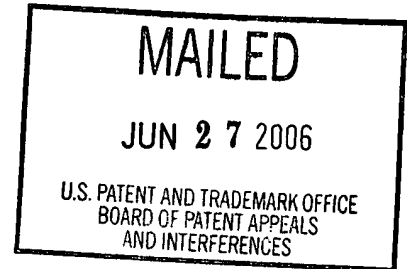
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

Ex parte ROBERT D. BONES, RICHARD J. COHEN
and PAUL KALLFELZ

Appeal No. 2006-0933
Application No. 09/740,400

ON BRIEF



Before BARRETT, RUGGIERO, and BLANKENSHIP, Administrative Patent
Judges.

RUGGIERO, Administrative Patent Judge.

DECISION ON APPEAL

This is a decision on the appeal from the final rejection of
claims 1-57, which are all of the claims in this application.

The claimed invention relates to the establishment and enforcement of password change policy in a single sign-on (SSO) environment. A first single sign-on password is changed to create a second single sign-on password in response to the receipt of a password change instruction. A target password is retrieved and modified to create a modified target password in a user selected manner to match the second single sign-on password. In response to a user request for access to an application, the modified target password is retrieved from storage and provided to the requested application.

Claim 1 is illustrative of the invention and reads as follows:

1. A method in a data processing system for changing a plurality of target passwords in a single sign-on environment, comprising the steps of:

in response to receiving a change instruction identifying a first single sign-on password, changing the first single sign-on password to create a second single sign-on password;

retrieving a target password; and

modifying the target password in a user selected manner to match the second single sign-on password to create a modified target password.

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The Examiner relies on the following prior art:

Prafullchandra	5,734,718	Mar. 31, 1998
Redpath	5,854,629	Dec. 29, 1998
He	5,944,824	Aug. 31, 1999

Claims 1-14, 20-33, and 39-52 stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by He. Claims 15-19, 34-38, and 53-57 stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). As evidence of obviousness, the Examiner offers He in view of Redpath with respect to claims 15, 34, and 53, and He in view of Prafullchandra with respect to claims 16-19, 35-38, and 54-57.

Rather than reiterate the arguments of Appellants and the Examiner, reference is made to the Briefs¹ and Answer for their respective details.

OPINION

We have carefully considered the subject matter on appeal, the rejections advanced by the Examiner, and the evidence of anticipation and obviousness relied upon by the Examiner as support for the rejections. We have, likewise, reviewed and taken into

¹ The Appeal Brief was filed May 24, 2005. In response to the Examiner's Answer mailed July 13, 2005, a Reply Brief was filed September 13, 2005 which was acknowledged and entered by the Examiner as indicated in the communication mailed October 25, 2005.

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consideration, in reaching our decision, Appellants' arguments set forth in the Briefs along with the Examiner's rationale in support of the rejections and arguments in rebuttal set forth in the Examiner's Answer.

It is our view, after consideration of the record before us, that the He reference does not fully meet the invention as set forth in claims 1-14, 20-33, and 39-52. With respect to the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection, we are also of the view that the evidence relied upon and the level of skill in the particular art would not have suggested to one of ordinary skill in the art the invention as recited in claims 15-19, 34-38, and 53-57. Accordingly, we reverse.

We consider first the rejection of claims 1-14, 20-33, and 39-52 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by He. Anticipation is established only when a single prior art reference discloses, expressly or under the principles of inherency, each and every element of a claimed invention as well as disclosing structure which is capable of performing the recited functional

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limitations. RCA Corp. v. Applied Digital Data Systems, Inc., 730 F.2d 1440, 1444, 221 USPQ 385, 388 (Fed. Cir.); cert. dismissed, 468 U.S. 1228 (1984); W.L. Gore and Associates, Inc. v. Garlock, Inc., 721 F.2d 1540, 1554, 220 USPQ 303, 313 (Fed. Cir. 1983), cert. denied, 469 U.S. 851 (1984)

With respect to the appealed independent claims 1, 20, and 39, the Examiner attempts to read the various limitations on the disclosure of He. In particular, the Examiner (Answer, page 3) points to various portions of column 13 of He which is a description of the illustration in Figure 10 of He.

Appellants' arguments in response assert that the Examiner has not shown how each of the claimed features are present in the disclosure of He so as to establish a case of anticipation. Appellants' arguments (Brief, pages 12-16; Reply Brief, pages 2-4) primarily focus on the contention that, in contrast to the claimed invention, He does not provide a disclosure of changing a single sign-on password to create a second single sign-on password.

After reviewing the He reference in light of the arguments of record, we are in general agreement with Appellants' position as

stated in the Briefs. The Examiner has primarily relied upon the disclosure in column 13 of He which describes the initialization of single sign-on (SSO) capability for a user, the initialization task being performed by a super user. While it is indisputable that a password is being changed during this process, we find no support in this section, or elsewhere, in He for the Examiner's assertion that the password being changed is a single sign-on password. As such, it is our view that the Examiner's argument (Answer, page 11) that, since the super user in He has SSO capability, it must follow that the initialization process disclosed in column 13 of He must involve an SSO password change can only be based on unwarranted speculation. It is further our view that even assuming, arguendo, that the password being changed in He is a first single sign-on password, there is no disclosure that this password change involves the creation of a second single sign-on password, a feature present in each of the independent claims on appeal.

In view of the above discussion, since all of the claim limitations are not present in the disclosure of He, we do not sustain the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of independent claims 1, 20, and 39, nor of claims 2-14, 21-33, and 40-52 dependent thereon.

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Turning to a consideration of the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of dependent claims 15-19, 34-38, and 53-57 based on separate combinations of He with Redpath and Prafullchandra, we do not sustain this rejection as well. The Redpath and Prafullchandra references have been added to He by the Examiner to address, respectively, the graphical user interface and target password change policy features set forth in the rejected dependent claims. We find nothing, however, in the disclosures Redpath or Prafullchandra which would overcome the innate deficiencies of He discussed supra.

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